

**Marked-Up Version of the Claims**

1. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme;

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate ~~of~~ for encoding each of said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to ~~each of~~ said data rates ~~of each said frame~~.

3. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said data signal includes a first frame and a second frame, and wherein said first frame is encoded using a said first ~~one of said plurality of said data signal encoders~~ and said second frame is encoded using a said second ~~one of said plurality of said data signal encoders~~.

10. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme, a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, and a third encoder;

a network controller capable of selecting at least two of said plurality of speech encoders, including said first encoder and said second encoder; and

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate ~~of~~ for encoding each of said frames and selects, according to each ~~of said data rates of each said frame~~, one of said speech data signal encoders selected by said network controller.

16. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

selecting one of a plurality of speech encoders according to said data rate, said plurality of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said one of said plurality of speech encoders;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech signal frame-by-frame.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said data signal includes a first frame and a second frame, and wherein said first frame is encoded using a said first ~~one of~~ plurality of said data signal encoders and said second frame is encoded using a said second ~~one of~~ plurality of said data signal encoders.

22. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

choosing, according to a predetermined factor, one ~~group of plurality of speech encoders~~ from a plurality of groups of speech encoders, said chosen group of speech encoders including at

least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme;

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

selecting, according to said data rate, one of said plurality of speech encoders in said chosen group; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said selected speech encoder;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech signal frame-by-frame.

42. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said first speech encoding scheme is based on G.729 and said second speech encoding scheme is based on G.721.

43. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein said first speech encoder is based on G.729 at 8.0 kbps and said second speech encoder is based on G.723.1 at 5.3 kbps.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein said plurality of speech data signal encoders further includes a third speech encoder, which is based on G.729 at 11.2 kbps.

45. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said first speech encoder is based on G.729 at 11.2 kbps and said second speech encoder is based on G.723.1 at 6.4 kbps.

Clean Version of the Claims

*(Amended)*

1. A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:  
a speech data rate determinator; and  
a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme;  
wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to said data rate.

*(amended)*

3. The system of claim 1, wherein said data signal includes a first frame and a second frame, and wherein said first frame is encoded using said first encoder and said second frame is encoded using said second encoder.

*(amended)*

10. A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:  
a speech data rate determinator; and  
a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme, a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, and a third encoder;  
a network controller capable of selecting at least two of said plurality of speech encoders, including said first encoder and said second encoder; and  
wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects, according to each said data rate, one of said speech data signal encoders selected by said network controller.

(amended)

16. A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

- determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;
- selecting one of a plurality of speech encoders according to said data rate, said plurality of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme; and
- encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said one of said plurality of speech encoders;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech signal frame-by-frame.

(amended)

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said data signal includes a first frame and a second frame, and wherein said first frame is encoded using said first encoder and said second frame is encoded using said second encoder.

(amended)

22. A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

- choosing, according to a predetermined factor, one group from a plurality of groups of speech encoders, said chosen group of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme;
- determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;
- selecting, according to said data rate, one of said plurality of speech encoders in said chosen group; and

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encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said selected speech encoder;  
wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech  
signal frame-by-frame.

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42. (NEW)  
^ The system of claim 1, wherein said first speech encoding scheme is based on  
G.729 and said second speech encoding scheme is based on G.721.

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cont

43. (NEW)  
^ The system of claim 10, wherein said first speech encoder is based on G.729 at  
8.0 kbps and said second speech encoder is based on G.723.1 at 5.3 kbps.

44. (NEW)  
^ The system of claim 43, wherein said plurality of speech data signal encoders  
further includes a third speech encoder, which is based on G.729 at 11.2 kbps.

45. (NEW)  
^ The method of claim 16, wherein said first speech encoder is based on G.729 at  
11.2 kbps and said second speech encoder is based on G.723.1 at 6.4 kbps.

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